

What is claimed is:

1. An active material for positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery essentially consisting of a lithium-metal composite oxide expressed by the general formula of $\text{Li}_x(\text{Ni}_{1-y}\text{Co}_y)_{1-z}\text{M}_z\text{O}_2$ (where $0.98 \leq x \leq 1.10$, $0.05 \leq y \leq 0.4$, $0.01 \leq z \leq 0.2$, and where M is at least one metal element selected from the group of Al, Mg, Mn, Ti, Fe, Cu, Zn and Ga), and having SO_4 ions in the range from 0.4 weight % to 2.5 weight %, and wherein the occupancy rate of lithium found from the X-ray diffraction chart and using Rietveld analysis is 98% or greater.
2. An active material for positive electrode for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery of Claim 1, wherein the carbon amount measured by way of the high frequency heating-infrared absorption method is 0.12 weight % or less, and wherein the Karl Fischer water content due to heating at 180°C be 0.2 weight % or less.
3. An non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery produced using the active material for positive electrode of one of Claims 1 and 2.